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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/629,491	07/29/2003	Michael R.S. Hill	9095DIV (2620/29)	7444

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Jeffrey J. Hohenshell
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EXAMINER

MULLEN, KRISTEN DROESCH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3762

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/629,491

Applicant(s)

HILL ET AL

Examiner

Kristen Mullen

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 July 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. An application in which the benefits of an earlier application are desired must contain a specific reference to the prior application(s) in the first sentence(s) of the specification or in an application data sheet by identifying the prior application by application number (37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) and (a)(5)). If the prior application is a non-provisional application, the specific reference must also include the relationship (i.e., continuation, divisional, or continuation-in-part) between the applications except when the reference is to a prior application of a CPA assigned the same application number.

The reference to the prior application is incorrect. The application number should be 09/669,355.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 4-8, 11-13 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Landymore et al. (4,753,244).

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Landymore shows an electrical sensor comprising a probe electrode (30) and an indicator (20) and a drug delivery means comprising a catheter that delivers an antiarrhythmic agent (potassium) (Col. 1, lines 14-21).

4. Claims 1-2, 11-16 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ben-Haim et al. (6,304,777).

Ben-Haim shows an electrical sensor comprising a epicardial electrodes and an indicator; a cardiac stimulator comprising at least one cardiac stimulation electrode (Fig. 1; Col. 5, line 61- Col. 6, line 3; Col. 8, lines 5-23).

Ben-Haim also shows the sensor and stimulator are the same (90) (Fig. 1).
The functional language and statements of intended use have been carefully considered but are not considered to impart any further structural limitations over the prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 3, 9-10 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ben-Haim et al. (6,304,777) in view of Medtronic (WO 97/40885). Ben-Haim et al. is as explained before. Although Ben-Haim shows stimulating the heart to inhibit beating of the heart, Ben-Haim teaches that it is well known to stimulate the vagus nerve to inhibit beating of the heart (Col. 1, lines 38-51). Medtronic teaches an electrode device that stimulates the vagus nerve to inhibit beating of the heart. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill

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in the art at the time the invention was made to employ a vagal nerve stimulation electrode of Medtronic used to inhibit beating of the heart for the heart stimulation electrodes of Ben-Haim et al. to inhibit beating of the heart wherein so doing would amount to mere substitution of one functional equivalent for another that would work equally well on the Ben-Haim device.

Claims 19-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ben-Haim et al. (6,304,777) in view of (Medtronic WO 97/40885). Ben-Haim et al. is as explained before. Although Ben-Haim et al. does not show a breathing regulator comprising a respirator or at least one nerve stimulation electrode, attention is directed to Medtronic which teaches a similar device and uses electrodes to stimulate the phrenic nerve and a respirator in order to still the lungs during the medical procedure while the beating of the heart is inhibited (Page 9, lines 14-22). Therefore it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to stop breathing by phrenic stimulation when the state of cardiac tissue is a non-contracting state as Medtronic teaches in order to still the lungs during the medical procedure.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristen Mullen whose telephone number is (571) 272-4944. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 10:30 am-6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Angela Sykes can be reached on (571) 272-4955. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kriste Muller

kdm

Angela D. Sykes

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